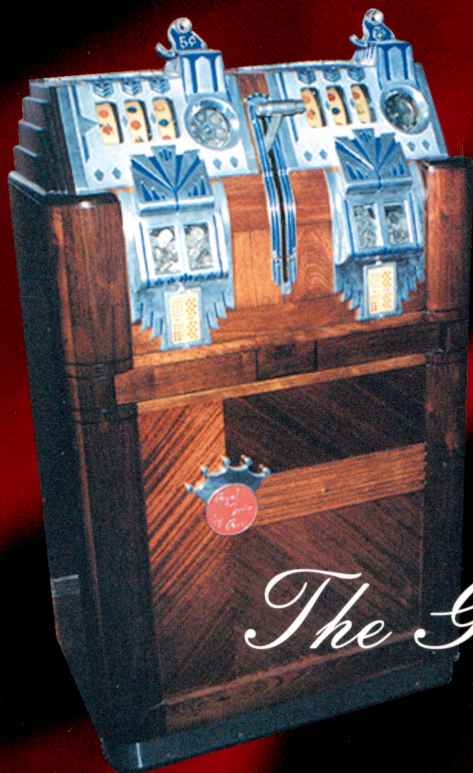


C.O.C.A. TIMES

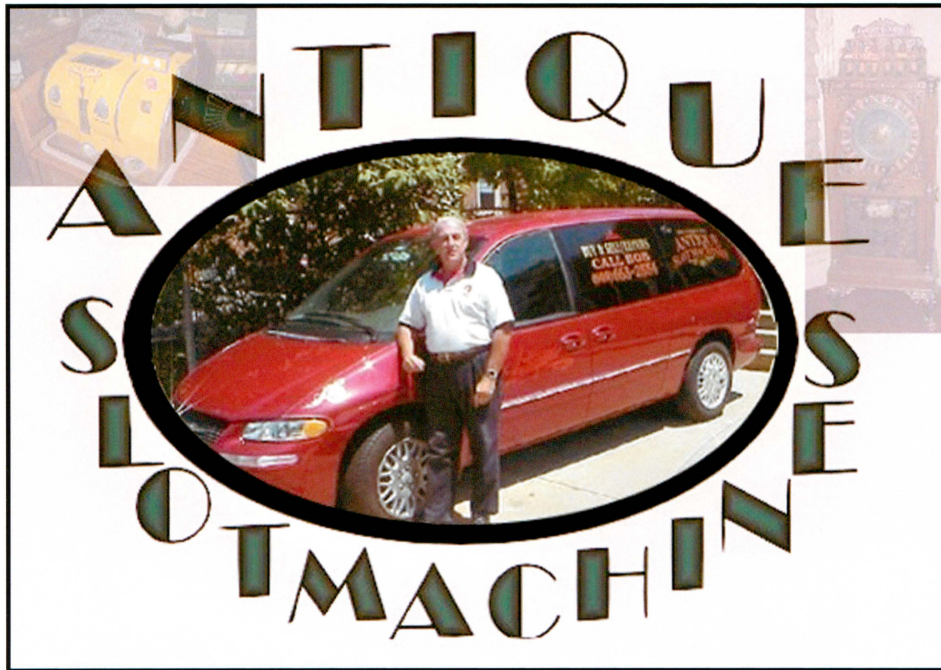
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Message from Our President

First let me thank all of you for allowing me the opportunity to serve as the president of C.O.C.A. I plan to carry on many of the traditions started by my predecessor Paul Hindin and perhaps start some new ones of my own. We are all grateful for the marvelous (and often thankless) job as our past president – He has taken the hobby and the club to new levels with record advertising, revenue and membership. I know that he will continue to support the hobby and the club with the same energy as he did in the past. I look forward to working with Sue and Randy Razzoog. The success of the C.O.C.A Time's magazine, and the club itself, is directly related to their commitment and skill in turning out a magazine of this caliber. Kudos to Al Fox, our underpaid (\$0.00) web manager who, as we read this, is updating the website (www.coinopclub.org) with current information.

Once again I need to thank Jasper for being such a marvelous host at our last meeting. Unfortunately due to a charity commitment the Carousel building was closed. Perhaps at a future meeting we will have an opportunity see this incredible display. I am currently working on the possibility of another "site visit" to see a marvelous collection of machines (updates by e-mail). I have spoken with John Carini our new vice president and look forward to some innovative programs and interesting speakers at upcoming meetings – if you have any ideas for upcoming meetings please let him know, his e-mail

continued on pg. 4

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Deadline for Next Issue:

May 15th, 2004

address is jscarini@execpc.com. In an effort to insure that members are kept current with regards to last minute changes of meetings, shows, scams, upcoming auctions etc., I would like to focus on updating our membership data base (especially e-mail addresses).

Updating membership information (name, address, phone numbers, and e-mail) is easy, send an e-mail to Dan Davids at (DJDAVIDS@earthlink.net). In the subject line say "COCA Membership Update". Dan has done a great job as our treasurer and membership coordinator. He can respond to membership, dues questions as well as update your personal info into our database. Information sent to members from this database would be disseminated centrally with the Subject Line reading – "C.O.C.A Update". The updated data is also collated and sent out as a list with the summer C.O.C.A magazine issue. This is a benefit for members only and provides the names and phone numbers of fellow collectors in your area and around the country.

Starting with the next issue I plan on highlighting a member and their collection. This would include photos of their collections and a brief interview with the member relating some highlights of their collecting career. If there are any aspiring authors out there please feel free to write an article for the magazine. Anything relating to the hobby is always welcome. Even if you have an idea for an article (but not sure where to start) then send it to Paul Hindin at BedVibr8or@aol.com he may be able to give you some ideas. The C.O.C.A booth at the Chicagoland show will be open from 12:00 on Friday the 2nd of April thru 12:00 Sunday the 4th of April. If you have some time during this period and would like to volunteer to "work the booth" please let me know. If you have any ideas, concerns questions please feel free to e-mail me at walex6@msn.com - Phone 480-227-4742.

Alex Warschaw

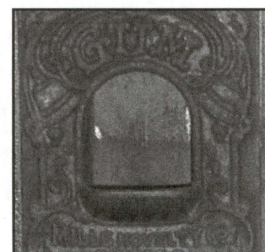
A COIN OP CONUNDRUM

(What the heck is it?)



Here is a slot machine stand that is most unusual. Does anyone have one, if so what machine does it go with. It is 36 inches tall and 16 inches square on top and has a beautiful cast iron base. The center has a cast iron vending chute that says "GUM" Mills Novelty Co., Chicago. There is a small lock under the top and has a pulley like mechanism inside which is probably used to vend the gum. My initial thought is perhaps a Liberty or Operator Bell since the casting has bells in it. Please respond to the editor BedVibr8or@aol.com. Responses will be included in the next issue.

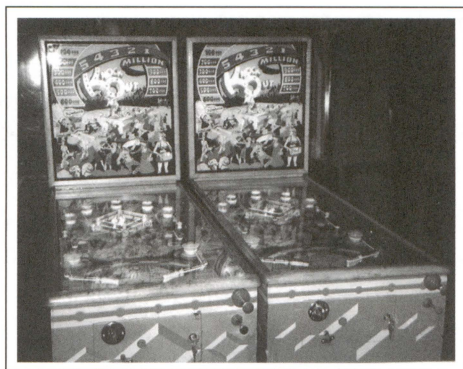
I would also encourage anyone with similar "Coin Op Conundrums" to take some photos and send them to Paul Hindin at BedVibr8or@aol.com for inclusion in our next issue.



T.K.O. - KNOCK OUT!

by Al Miller

This story starts in February of 2000 when we were following a lead on an old pinball machine. The owner described it as having "boxers" on the back glass. Could it be the elusive Gottlieb "Knock Out" from 1950? It was doubtful, but we didn't waste any time getting there to find out. As we entered the dimly lit basement I could hardly contain myself, yes it was a Knock Out!



The negotiations began. He wanted us to make an offer, we wanted him to set a price. Eventually we gave in and made an offer. Then we had to go upstairs to see if the price was O.K. with his wife. Evidently it wasn't, because after a long discussion they decided they would keep the old pinball to give to their grandson who wanted it. An incredible find, but we had to leave it behind, for now at least.

A year and a half later the pinball still crossed my mind occasionally. Finally, I dug out the owner's name and phone number. The old slip of paper then sat around on my endtable for about a month before I finally picked up the phone to call him. It was August 2, 2001, almost 9:00 at night. After reintroducing myself to him, we begin talking about the pinball. It hadn't moved since we had looked at it. Once they realized it had some value they decided not to give it to their grandson after all! After discussing a price range slightly higher than what was discussed a year and a half earlier, it sounded like they were ready to sell. Then the catch...they were in the process of moving. In fact, the moving com-

pany was coming at 8:00 the next morning to load them up! If I had waited one more day to call we might never have tracked the pinball down again. We had to go pick it up yet that night, but I really didn't mind. What luck!!

Less than a week later, August 8, 2001 to be exact, Jeff Pope, a pinball collector friend of ours was following up a lead on an old pinball at an estate sale. He didn't get there real early, in fact the sale had been going for several hours before he meandered in. When he walked into the basement he could hardly believe his eyes...another Knock Out! He was amazed that it was still available for sale, especially when he saw the asking price of only \$50 marked on it! He obviously didn't waste any time getting it loaded up. What luck!!

The amazing part of these stories, besides the fact that they happened within a week of each other, is that these two machines were found within a few city blocks of each other! Two examples of one of the most collectible pinballs, within a few city blocks, within one week! Don't even tell us there's nothing left out there to find! That's what we call a T.K.O.!!

P.S. The serial numbers are exactly 590 numbers apart. We're wondering where the others are? We're considering a door to door search of the neighborhood!



THE BRUNHOFF STORY

by Tom Gustwiller

Through my years of collecting, I've found two machines made by the Brunhoff Manufacturing Company, and I always wanted to know more about the manufacturer. One machine was marked Hamilton, Ohio, so I wrote to the Chamber of Commerce. The reply said they had no records of a Brunhoff Company being in business in Hamilton. I also had a catalogue of cigar clippers made by Brunhoff Mfg., this time with a Cincinnati address. I checked with the Cincinnati Library, and they wrote back with some interesting material on Brunhoff. With this information I was able to contact some of the living relatives of the Brunhoff Company. With the information they gave me and the literature from the library I put this story together.

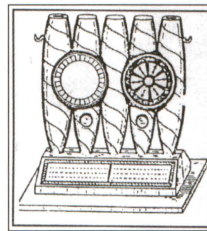


Edward Brunhoff (photo 1) born in 1863, was a native of Germany near the Holland boundary line. Edward was the son of a doctor and acquired his education in German colleges. He tutored on ships and 1882 came to America residing in New York

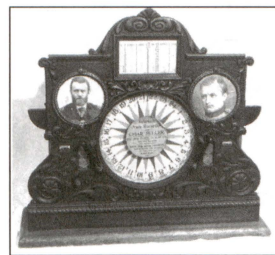
City for a short time. He visited Australia and the Sandwich islands. On his return, landing on the Pacific coast, he spent several years in the states of California, Oregon, Washington and the province of British Columbia. He worked as a fisherman on the Columbia and Cowlitz rivers and as a surveyor for the Canadian Pacific Railroad. After Brunhoff satisfied his desires for the rough and open life with its hunting and fishing, he returned to civilization in 1888 where he located in Chicago becoming for two years a member of the Illinois Staats Zeitung (a private club for German men). Brunhoff became tired of this and decided to start his own manufacturing plant in 1890. He had considerable inventive ability and patented file clips and also the detachable endless files used in practically every office. While Brunhoff belonged to the Staats Zeitung he must have been exposed to the Albert Pick & Co., as they were just a few doors down. This is probably where

he got some of his ideas for gambling devices, cigar cutters, and cigar lighters.

In 1893, he moved to Minneapolis, staying there for four years where he continued to make advertising devices for the counter, showcase, bar, and desk. Brunhoff then moved to Cincinnati, Ohio in 1897 staying two short years, moving on again to Hamilton, Ohio in 1899. It was in this period from 1899 to 1901 that Brunhoff produced many of his trade stimulators.



His first trade stimulator was called the FIVE CIGARS (photo 2). This machine was unusual in that it had two coin slots, one each at the tip-top of the end cigars, with a pull-down plain handle on each side. Each wheel had its own slug detector window and reward card making it two machines in one. None are known to exist.



The next machine was the AUTOMATIC VOTE RECORDER AND CIGAR SELLER (photo 3) which also had two slots each with its own pull down handle.

First you would pick out the person you were voting for, then put a nickel in that side of the machine. There were counters underneath each person so you could see who was winning. In the middle of the machine a small wheel spun, landing on different numbers. The owner gave the appropriate number of cigars shown on the corresponding award card. There are only a few known.

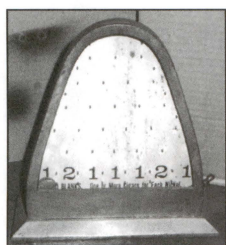


Another interesting machine is called the SPINNING TOP (photo 4). This machine spins a red, white, and blue top under a glass dome after a nickel is played. When the top stopped,

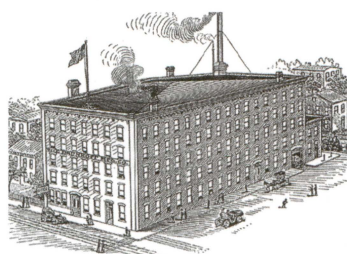
the number on its side next to the pointer indicated the payoff in cigars. Only one is known to exist.



In 1902, he returned to Cincinnati, continuing to make metal specialties for advertising purposes such as match stands, cigar cutters, cigar lighters, and dicers (photo 5). He also made electric devices and novelties in wood and glass for advertising. His biggest customers being liquor and tobacco businesses.



Sometime in the next few years, he made the "DAISY" (photo 6), a cast iron machine which awarded the player either one or two cigars depending on which space his nickel landed. This machine is very similar to the "PROGRESSIVE DAISY" on page 49 of Dick Bueschel's Trade Stimulator book #1. Again this machine seems to be very scarce and probably the last he made.



Brunhoff made enough money from his specialties, that he built a new building in 1920 on Freeman Avenue and Ninth Street (photo 7). Besides the main Cincinnati plant, branch offices were maintained in Chicago for distributing.

Edward Brunhoff had some 22 patents to his name, one which was the extractor of the M-1903 Springfield rifle. He also invented the glass pull out doors on bookcases which he later sold to Globe Warneck also of Cincinnati. One of his best money makers and one that kept him going during the depression was the TARGET TIER CIGARETTE ROLLER. Brunhoff made thousands of them.

Edward Brunhoff had seven children, but only four were living at the time of his death, which was

February 3, 1936. He was 72. The four were Henry Edward Brunhoff, Sophia Swenhott, Fridella Wydman, and Adele Brunhoff. All four of these people are dead today with no Brunhoffs' living in Cincinnati today. It was through the Wydman name that I was able to track down Edward Brunhoff's granddaughter, Mrs. Betty Hover of California. Henry Edward was Betty's father.

According to Betty, after Edward's death his son Henry continued to run the business but was not the inventor his father was. Betty remembered a company in Atlanta her dad wanted to buy, but didn't have the money. Brunhoff had been selling them advertising pieces for years, so he tried to get his father Edward to buy it, but he wouldn't listen. It was Coca Cola.

She recalled that her father's company made refrigerator doors during the 1930's along with different types of small showcases and cabinets. Due to ill health, her father retired in 1948 and moved to Florida. Her brother Henry Edward Jr. continued to run the business, but had trouble getting along with his partner Clarence Karst, who bought into the business into the late 1950's. The business was then sold to Rapid American which consolidated the business with another fixture company in Ohio. Dave Evans of Gold Metal Products then bought the empty building to put his concession equipment company in. Dave was an avid slot collector and pioneered new reel strips for slots. Henry passed away in 1963 and a few years later his son, Henry Edward Jr. also died leaving no Brunhoffs.

I think the story explains why Brunhoff machines are so rare. Brunhoff was largely a manufacturer of advertising specialties and showcases for the cigar, liquor and beverage industry. The machines were only a small part of the line and after the turn of the century companies like Mills and Caille were too large to compete with. It was a time of specialization. Maybe you can turn up a Brunhoff machine in some old barn! Happy hunting!

Watling “Gambler” Scale - ca. 1929

by Jim and Merlyn Collings

The Gambler is truly a beautiful “lollipop” scale with a unique gambling device (photo 1). On the right of the head are 3 slots where the patron deposits a penny. The words Drop Coin Here are embossed next to the diagonal slots (photo 2). At the top of the scale head, on a maroon background, are the embossed directions which states: You Get Your / Correct Weight - Free - If You Put Coin / In Correct Slot (photo 3). This modified rim of the scale is distinctly different than the earlier 1918 (Model II) Guessing scale. On the bottom rim of the scale head are the raised letters which read: Tested With U.S. / Standard Weights. If the patron guesses the correct slot the lucky penny will be returned in the money cup below (photo 4). Directly above the money cup are the embossed letters that read Coin Return Here.



Photo 1

An even earlier version of the Gambler scale did not use the money cup, instead a hole was used in the column to retrieve the lucky penny. This caused serious problems as some people got their finger caught in the hole. In some cases the operator would have to break the scale column to free the beleaguered patron. This scale variation is very scarce (photo 5).

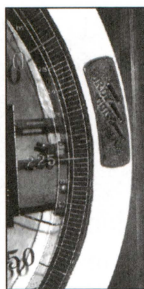


Photo 2

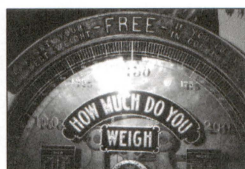


Photo 3

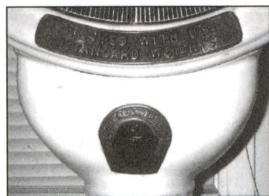


Photo 4

Around 1929 the Watling Gambler scale was made for a limited time since it did not have a hinged front door. This made it difficult for the scale mechanic to work on. A non-coin or free play model also had limited production. This Gymnasium model was not practical because it lacked a hinged front door as well.

The Gambler scale is one of our favorite pieces. It became part of our collection 25 years ago. It's large “lollipop” head has a diameter of 24” in order to house the counter balance mechanism which is very large. The counter balance became an important innovation instead of using springs. In many cases the springs wore out and they lost their tension and accuracy. The Gambler scale is 71” tall and in white porcelain. The Toledo Scale Co. prided themselves by having the first Big Head with a counter balance mechanism (see vol. 3, issue 9 of the C.O.C.A. Times). In 1914, however, Tom Watling boasted that this “Big Head” counter balance scale with the penny back feature, was the first scale of this type. The debate goes on!



Photo 6

In 1918, the Watling Scale (style II Guesser) had 3 horizontal coin slots, (one right above the other) for guessing; at the top of the head, unlike the 1929 Gambler (photo 6) the 3 slots were transferred from the top to the right side of the head, on the Gambler. This variation occurred when the hinged front door was replaced by a solid porcelain border in 1929. The etched glass with the visible mechanism makes the “big head” quite attractive. It

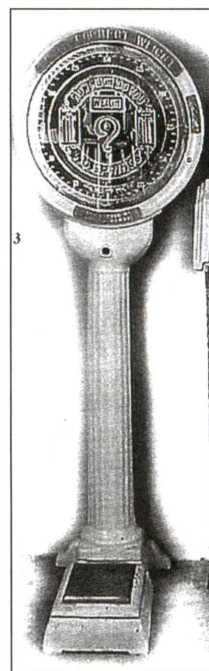


Photo 5

is enhanced by a large etched question mark in the middle of the glass face. The words: How Much Do You Weigh and No Springs is also etched on the glass face of the scale (photo 7).



Photo 7

Co. produced six fairly successful scale models. From 1914 thru 1931 the “big head” became the trademark of the Watling Scale Co. They referred to the Gambler scale so much that a two-story high picture of it was painted on the side of their Chicago factory. Other scale distributors such as the Evans Co. in Des Moines, Iowa and the United Co. of Johnstown, PA. had their names etched on the glass face of the Gambler. There are probably other scale companies that also etched their name on the Gambler face.

In a future article we will attempt to describe the Watling Gypsy “Black Cat” Fortune Telling Scale and the Watling President which replaces the latter.

The Gambler scale marked the end of the era for the “big head” lollipop scale but is highly prized by many coin-op collectors.

HAPPY SCALE COLLECTING!



Photo 8

The fluted column can hold over a \$100 dollars in pennies. The cash box door is inconspicuously located at the back and bottom of the column.

The footplate or platform on the Gambler scale is made of German Silver (photo 8). The earlier Guesser model footplate was made of brass.

Historically John and Tom Watling with the help of Gustan Schultze created a wood cabinet Guesser scale in 1902 (see vol. 2, issue 8 of the C.O.C.A. Times). Prior to 1914 the Watling Manufacturing

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Columbus #9 No Star	\$55
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Hamilton	\$65
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TALES OF THE HUNT

Hosted by Jack Freund

(Please read my footnote at the end of this article)

This tale is submitted by Bill Howard of Akron Ohio. It is not really a tale of finding but of the hunt to make it a complete machine, with a mechanism that functioned as the machine was designed for. We all know that creating an unknown mechanism is almost impossible but in this case.....

PERSISTENCE PAYS OFF by Bill Howard

Anyone who knows my close friend, Tom Gustwiller, is aware that he can be a very persistent, relentless man when it comes to his collection goals. And anyone who knows me, knows of my passion for unique and significant examples of coin operated machines. These realities led me to acquire, sell, and then reacquire a trade stimulator known as the AUTOMATIC TRADER.

This story started at Mel Getlan's auction a few years ago in New York. Paul Hindin, Jack Freund and I, along with a few others, took a curious interest in this machine, principally because it made little sense in it's then condition. There were clear signs that we were looking at a very rare machine, both because none of us had seen one before, and because it was mechanically unique. The first tip-off as to its unique character was its promise to "Deliver the Goods", as written under its name on the paper, attached to the glass in front of the machine. It closely resembled the Little Dream machines of the late teens and early 20's of the last century. When you dropped your penny, you got a stick of gum if your penny fell through the pins in the middle of the machine. If the coin went into the A, B or C chutes on either side of the machine, you received five cents, ten cents or twenty five cents in merchandise from the store proprietor, who then flushed the winning coin into the cash box so no one tried to "double up" on a win.

So, you say, "What's the big deal?" The deal is that, although the lever to flush the winning coin was

present in its original form and, although the original gum chute to accommodate a stick of gum to the loser was present in its original form, any outside way to release the gum was 1) nowhere to be found and 2) never attached in the first place. So how did the gum get disbursed? Clearly, the automatic stored-energy from the coin itself had to be the catalyst--from inside the machine. The player was to get his gum automatically when he lost without doing a thing. This feature stood the machine apart from the traditional "target machines," where the player had to activate a mechanism to get the gum. Hence the promise that this machine "Delivers the Goods."

Collector Ken Rubin wrote an article for C.O.C.A. in March 2002 explaining the automatic stored-energy drop-win machines. In it, he discussed this category of machines. The machine conceptually the closest to THE AUTOMATIC TRADER was the Zeno, where the weight of the coin gave you a stick of gum every time.

No type of machine in the above category, however, is quite like the AUTOMATIC TRADER because the TRADER does not give you the gum every time based on automatic-stored energy: it only dispenses the gum if you lose. If you won, you got merchandise, not gum. **THUS, THE STORED-ENERGY IS RANDOM, AS IF THE COIN HAS TO THINK.** And neither I, nor anyone I have ever discussed this machine with, has ever known of one like it mechanically.

I was able to acquire this machine for three basic reasons. First, my friend Tom Gustwiller didn't know it was there. Second, my friends Paul and Jack were kind enough to agree to "go away." Third, the internal mechanism was missing, so that the cost of the machine at auction was minimal.

What followed was a year of frustration. The Zeno mechanism is spring-powered and no doubt the age and concept of the TRADER dictated a similar spring-powered mechanism. I tried in vain to conceptualize how this could be designed and finally gave up and had a battery powered mechanism installed. I took the machine to Chicago for a C.O.C.A. "show and tell" at one of the meetings and with the help of my faithful assistant Jackie Durham, was able to create the stick of gum flying into one of my awaiting "seedy" hands after she dropped the coin, and the crowd cheered.

But over time and a lot of money, I felt something was wrong. The battery device was crude, and I felt that the awkward insides made the machine less than what I believed the AUTOMATIC TRADER was created to be. So I quit, threw in the sponge and convinced Tom Gustwiller to buy it and carry on the fight to originality.

When I visited Tom some nine months later he pointed to the machine as he handed me a penny with a sly smile, the AUTOMATIC TRADER was reborn. It looked and operated as its unique automatic stored energy mechanism was designed. After painful negotiations, my friend took pity on me as he is sometimes prone to do, and the AUTOMATIC TRADER was on its way back to Akron.

So there you have it. Thanks to the perseverance of Tom, this single example has been brought back to life. According to its paper under the pins, it is distributed by "Seacoast Vending Machine Company of Asbery Park, New Jersey," a company no one has ever heard of as per my inquiries. I believe "Seacoast Vending" was probably the distributor or a jobber rather than a manufacturer. Perhaps it was a proto-type that never got put on the market. In any event, a photo is enclosed, and I thank and salute my friend, Tom, whose persistence paid off!

.....

Footnote from Jack Freund: I purchased THE AUTOMATIC TRADER almost 25 years ago at the Kane County fairgrounds monthly flea market. I didn't have the ability to create a mechanism for it and eventually sold it to another collector (I can't remember who). We, as collectors, are eternal optimists and think we can fix something that the previous person could not. I would not be surprised if THE AUTOMATIC TRADER changed hands many times before it finally ended up in the hands of someone who did have the ability and expertise to complete this machine. That is what makes this hobby so much fun..... We keep trying until we get it right.

Please submit YOUR tale to: Jack Freund, PO Box 4, Springfield WI 53176 or email to jbgum@msn.com.

In the meantime....PRAY FOR MORE STUFF!!



WHO AM I?

If you know who I am,
please respond to the editor
and information will be
shared in the next issue.

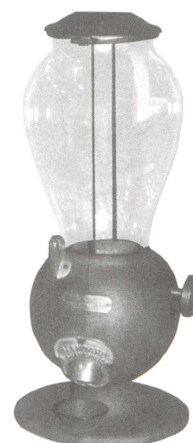
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has its own web-site. It is maintained
by member Al Fox and has news
regarding shows, auction results,
and classified ads, as well as a
question and answer section.

the address is:
www.coinopclub.org

Over One Thousand Machines...But Whose Counting?

by Donna & Barry Goldfarb

I am married to a collector, Barry Goldfarb. Not just any collector. Not a stamp collector, a coin collector, or unfortunately for me, not a jewelry collector. My husband collects slot machines. Three wheeled beautiful, old, large, and very large slot machines. We have put a third floor in our house, just for him to display more of his slot machines. Over one thousand machines...but whose counting? He has been, as most people are, who have this type of personality, an avid collector. He reads, studies catalogs, repairs, paints, travels to shows, attends meetings, and basically spends most of his leisure time pursuing this hobby. He started collecting slot machines over 25 years ago, but after he sold his company in 1994, his desire and interest in collecting soared. He doesn't miss the "big" show in Chicago twice a year. He recently purchased the "Liberty Bell", the first slot machine ever made! He doesn't set it apart from all the others, but has it among the rest, like a father who doesn't want to single out his most special child, sensitive to the others.

I am not a collector. I have tried, with his encouragement, to collect turtles, salt and pepper shakers, limoges, napkin rings, but always lose interest. That is because I don't have the "bug." I admire him having a passion that doesn't stop. Where I get bored with hobbies after some time, he remains true to his passion, his collecting.

He enjoys having his other "slot" friends over too, discussing the machines, and hearing other collectors' stories as well. We have made good friends from all over the world. The local slot club buddies have always been high on his "to do" list, calling to see what's going on in the area, looking for that rare find.

If collecting is genetic, then it has skipped over our children. Our 18 year old son, Michael and our 15 year old daughter, Amy have grown up with this collector of a father, seen him tinkering with his

machines in the garage in the morning and evening, but don't seem to desire having more than a couple of anything, CD's excluded!

Barry is a collector in its truest form, he enjoys the hunt, the pursuit, and ultimately, the prize! He captured my heart almost 20 years ago and I am still crazy about my collector, after all these years!

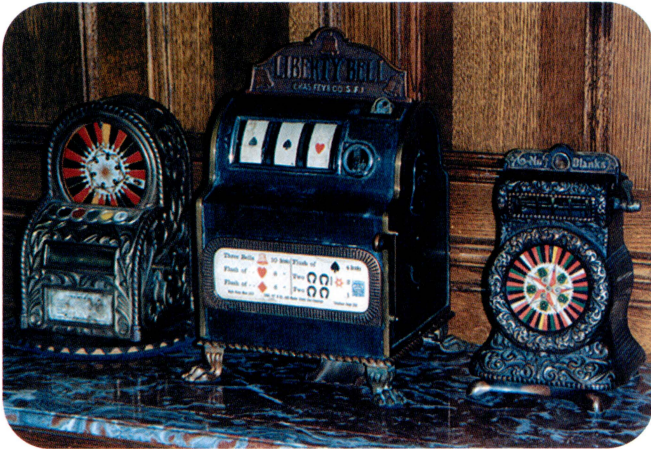
.....

I guess my wife pretty well summed it up, but now some of the neat stories and details. I still remember buying my first slot in 1973, a Mills bursting cherry. It was a real basket case that I bought at a garage sale for a couple hundred dollars. I took it apart, painted it and with a couple of extra parts, I was hooked for life.

I used to joke with my friends that I would not stop collecting until I had them all, not realizing how many thousands of different coin op games there are. It gave me a great excuse to keep going, because I truly am addicted.

Over the years I've found some truly unusual machines, a Clawson coin drop with music, not too many of these are around, when you push that plunger it really turns people's heads. The Hoke snake is everyone's favorite, interesting how Hoke got around the law by calling it a skill machine.

The all wood Pace Comet is like a piece of art, made during World War II when metal was scarce. The pace Royal Double is as beautiful as it comes, very cool how you could play two different coins with one pull. Frank Polk started the character figure craze, a real artist. My Polk "miner" is so life like, people who see it for the first time think it's a real person.



A Mills *Bulls Eye*, Caille *Silver Cup*, Mills *Little Monte Carlo*, Mills *Roulette*, Mills *Little Scarab*, Caille *Busy Bee*, Caille & Fey *Operator Bell*, Caille & Mills *Hy-Lo* are just a few of the beautiful and rare machines I have been able to find over the last few years of collecting.

Everytime you walk into a casino and see thousands of slot machines, think of the influence that one man, Charles Fey, had in creating this billion dollar industry.

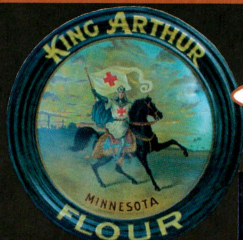
With that in mind, I was on a mission to find the "Rosetta Stone" of gambling, The Fey "Liberty Bell". I have a large collection with no duplicates,



when I finally got the “Liberty Bell” it tied it all together. It signified to me that this slot machine, the first one ever made, was a piece of history that I now owned. It even came with the original shipping crate, addressed to Walter Trask, the founder of A.B.T. Corp.

I want to thank my wife, Donna, and children Michael and Amy for being so understanding, and a special thanks to my assistant of twenty years, Judy, who has been so helpful in all my endeavors, and all the great friends I have met through this hobby. I’m always interested in sharing my collection with others, so if you are in Los Angeles, please give me a call.



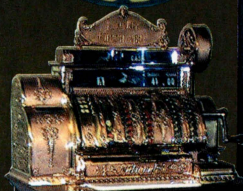


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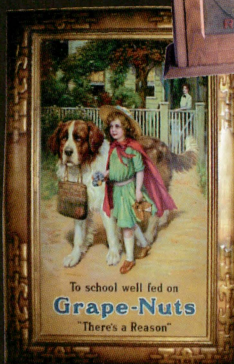
Sold \$3,740



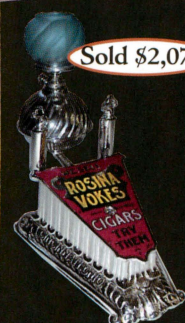
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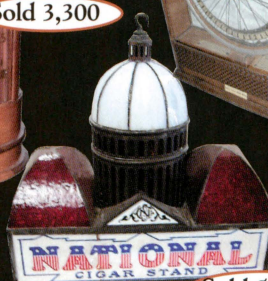
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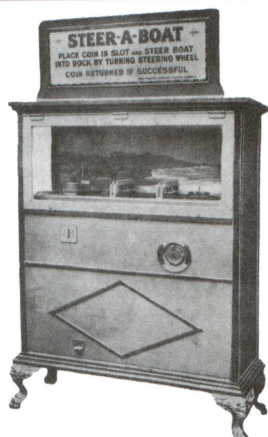
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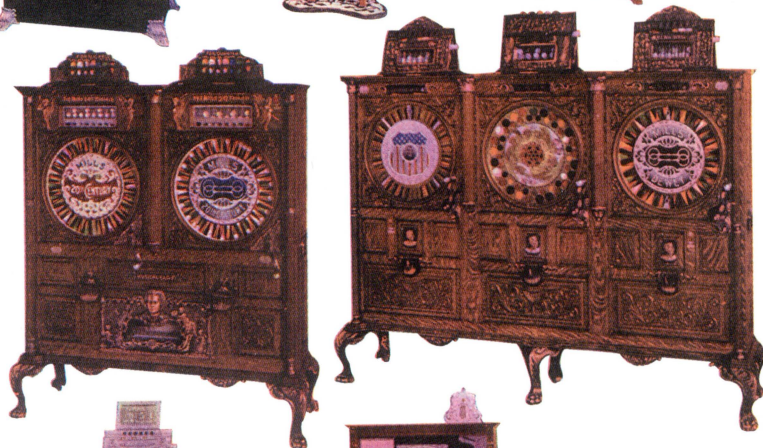
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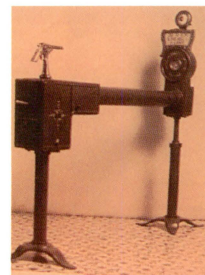
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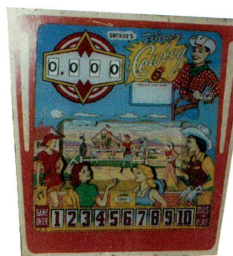
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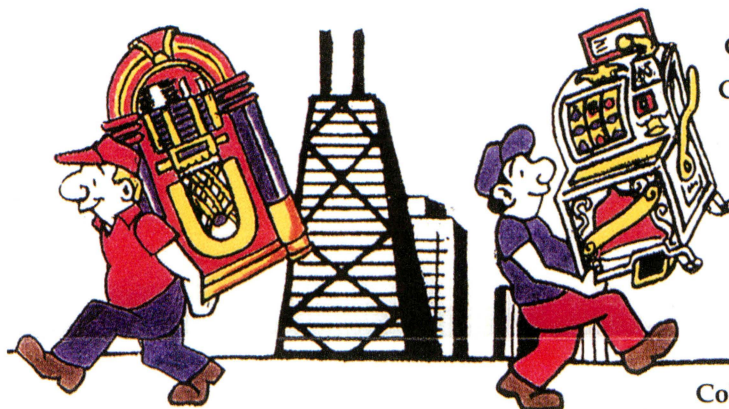
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Two Rare Jukeboxes within One Month

by Al & Julie Miller

We have been collecting and restoring jukeboxes and other coin operated machines for close to twenty years now. Like many collectors, we are always on the look out for rare and unusual machines to add to our collection. In November, 2003 I ran across a rare jukebox listed for sale on Ebay. It was a double AMI Singing Towers. Since the auction was ending while we were planning to be at the November Chicagoland Jukebox Show, I placed my bid and off we went to the show. I was hoping that some of the other potential buyers for this jukebox would be preoccupied with the upcoming show. I was thrilled to find out a few days later that we were the high bidders for the jukebox! After arranging for our new purchase to be shipped from Pennsylvania to our home in Wisconsin, all we had to do is await it's arrival. When it arrived I was very



pleased with our purchase. It was a nice original jukebox and should be an easy restoration.

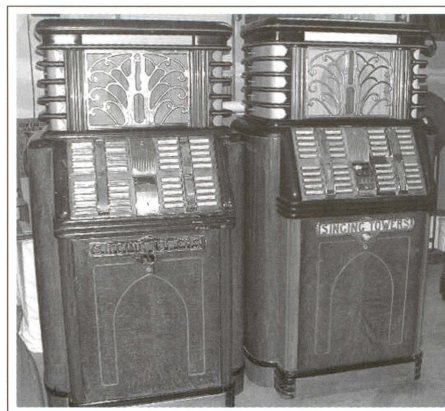
This story could end right here and I would have been quite happy. We had acquired a rare jukebox to add to our

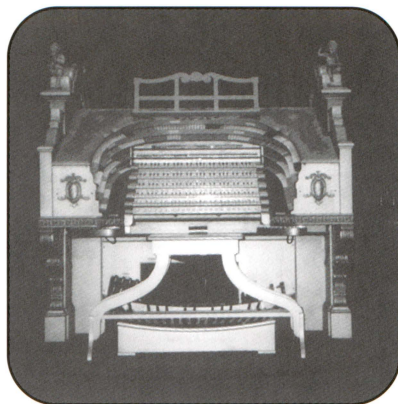
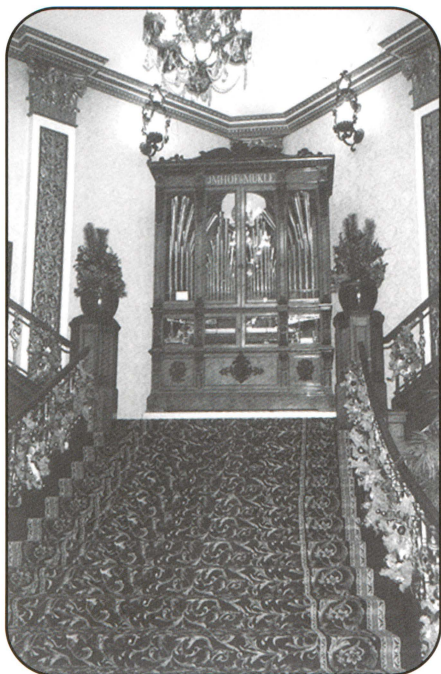
collection. The transaction went smoothly, and shipping it across the country was no problem thanks to North American Van Lines. Then (within two weeks) I got one of those phone calls. A friend of mine left me a voice mail message about a jukebox lead. When I called the owner I was disappointed to find out that he had a couple of '70s jukeboxes for sale. We collect primarily '40s jukeboxes, so I didn't really have an interest in pursuing these machines. Again this could have been the end of the story, but for some reason we continued to visit about our shared hobby of restoring old jukeboxes. When I mentioned that I was primarily interested in '40s and '50s jukeboxes, he stated that he had an

AMI Singing Towers jukebox that he wanted to sell also. My interest was certainly sparked when he mentioned that this jukebox had two turntables! Somehow I just couldn't convince myself that we were going to see another double Singing Towers a few days later. Even as we drove the short distance to view the jukebox I was convinced that it couldn't be another double, it had to be just a regular Singing Towers. We were barely in the front door of the house when we were face to face with another nice original double Singing Towers! It wasn't long before it was loaded into our trailer and heading home with us.

We are now the proud owners of not one, but two double Singing Towers jukeboxes! These jukeboxes are quite rare. I know the term "rare" gets over used, but after talking to other knowledgeable collectors, the general consensus is that there are less than ten of these machines known to exist! It's certainly unusual for two of them to come our way within a month. One being an Ebay purchase, coming from across the country. The second was found the old fashioned way, by word of mouth and practically in our own backyard!

This story just goes to show that there are still many treasures out there just waiting to be found! You never know how or when they'll show up, but if you keep looking you're bound to get lucky once in awhile! Good luck finding your own treasures!





AN EVENING AT THE PALACE... Jasper Sanfillipo

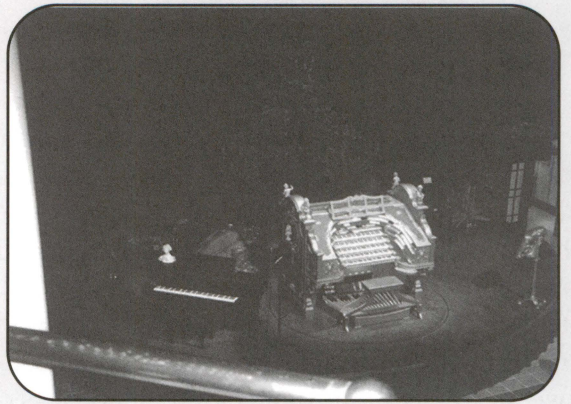
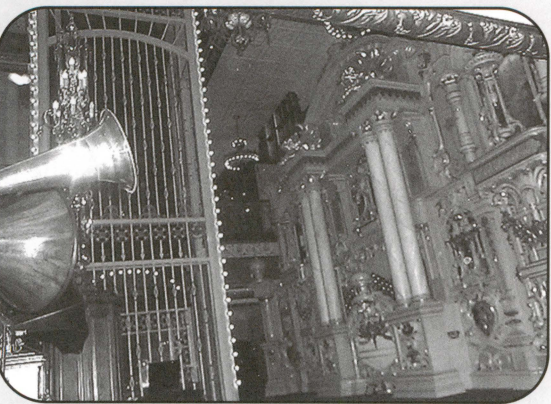
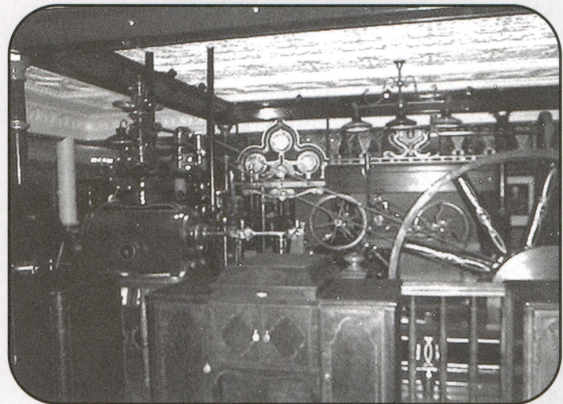
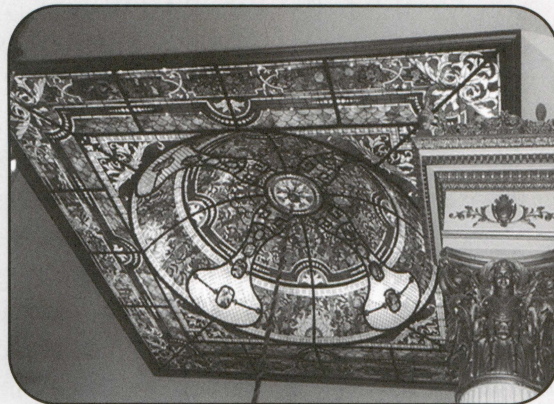
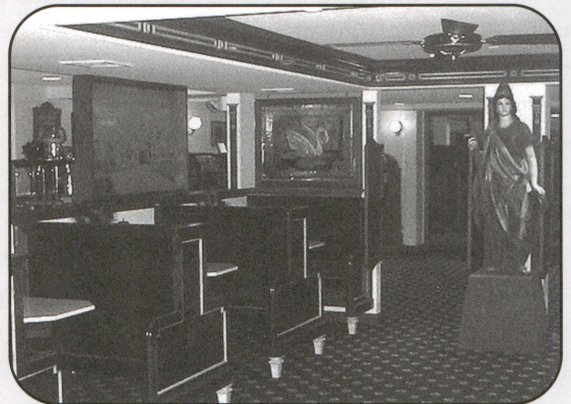


On Friday evening of the November Chicago show, Jasper Sanfillipo and his wife once again opened their home, or should I say museum, to the members of the C.O.C.A. Club.

To describe such a place would leave me gasping for air. Hopefully these photos can give those who have not had the pleasure to attend, a small taste of the diversity and vastness of this collection. I actually believe I saw some things that I didn't during the other two visits. Could it be, that this means Jasper is still buying? Scary thought!!

A sincere thanks, once again Jasper, for the hospitality and commitment to C.O.C.A. and its' members.



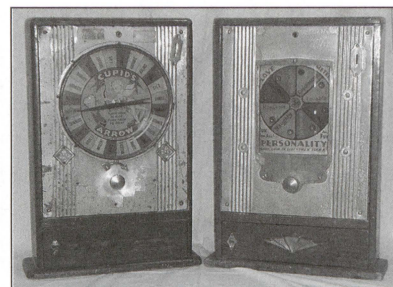


FORTUNE KOOKY

by John Peterson

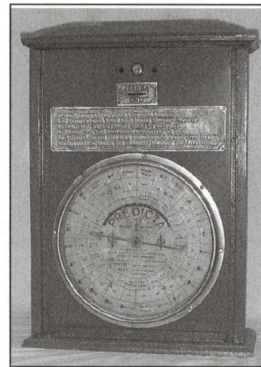
Fess up. How many of you have had your palm read? Planned your TV schedule so as not to miss "Crossing Over" with John Edwards? Had the overwhelming desire to visit a psychic, or worse, actually done so? OK everybody, put your hands down. We all have entertained the fantasy of being able to foresee the future. Happily for us, the early creators of coin-operated machines understood this very human desire and responded by bringing us those marvelous mechanical charlatans we call Fortune Tellers. A small but fascinating portion of my collection is comprised of British tellers and it is these that I wish to share with you today.

The first commercially produced British fortune teller of any quantity originated around 1890. It was what you would call a "spinner." The play was very simple; you deposited a coin that, in the process of dropping into the cash box, activated the center needle. After spinning, this needle came to rest on your "fortune." With this style machine, all the possible fortunes were presented on a clock face that you could read prior to inserting your coin. There was no mystery as to what your fortune might be, only which one would ultimately be yours. As with life itself, the fortune arrow rotated around answers to questions about love, life, marriage and money. Quickly proving their popularity, fortune tellers were here to stay!



(Photo). The machine on the left, "Cupid's Arrow" is what I would call a modified spinner. After depositing your coin, you are then able to turn the central knob that through a series of springs and gears spins the fortune arrow. The machine on the right, "Personality Love Meter" is a little more clever. It operates on bat-

tery power and professes to tell you your "love" quotient. Depositing a coin allows you to turn the central knob on the front of the case. Mechanically, this advances a wiper "finger" to the next contact point, lighting up your love trait. The wiring order to the lights is not consecutive so the answers appear to be random, which they are not. If you play enough coins, you can learn the sequence of the traits.



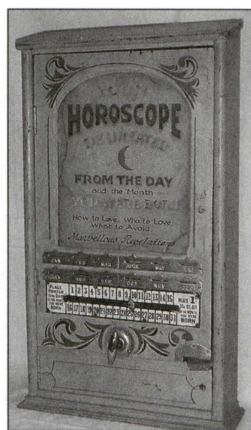
My Arnold Schwarzenegger teller by far and away is "Predicta" in a red iron case (Photo). Introduced in the 30's, these ironclad spinners were produced in numbers as late as the 1950's by Bolland's Amusement Supply Company of London. Their advertising shouted that they were "SPE-

CIALY BUILT for OUTSIDE USE; Suitable for PIERS, AMUSEMENT PARKS, RAILWAY STATIONS, HOLIDAY CAMPS, TEA GARDENS, AMUSEMENT ARCADES, BUS STATIONS, ETC." Did they leave anywhere out? I don't think so! This machine is a true spinner where the energy of the coin dropping propels the central fortune needle. The cast iron shell keeps the mechanism dry and protects it from damage. This teller has three concentric rings entitled: "The Greatest Amount of Money you will own", "Age You Will Live To," and "Number of Children you will have." The makers apparently felt that the customer would be more satisfied with the ability to choose between the three predictions. You might be poor but you can take solace in living to 100 with three children! Make no mistake, this sucker is heavy! If there ever is a show "Battle of the Fortune TellerBots," look out! I will win hands down with Predicta. All I need to do is side up next to the competition and tip over onto them.

It was not long before creative genius devised new designs for tellers. To address the problem of no surprise, the tellers branched out to include fortune card vending machines. With a card vendor, the common

denominator moved from the answers to the questions. You were offered a set group of questions, usually selected by into which slot you deposited your coin. The possible answers were limited only by the size of the cardholder and the imagination of the author. The case theme of the early card machines tended toward gypsy predictions or astrology. With astrology, you deposited your coin into the slot of your astrological sign and received your “star sign” fortune. From the operator’s standpoint, the critical obligation was to see that the different columns of cards did not run out. Most of these early vendors had reverse painted glass that, if broken, would render the machine basically worthless. I imagine the demeanor of these early patrons was superior to the average arcade player of today. None the less, you would not willingly wish to challenge the temperament of your customers by taking their money and leaving them empty-handed.

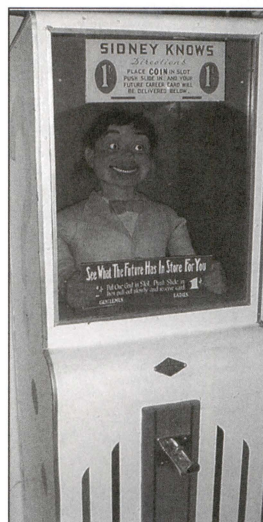
I have a card teller in my collection called “Your Horoscope Delineated” (Photo). In the style of this genre, you first select the day of the month you were born with the slide lever and then deposit your coin into the dedicated slot of the month of your birth. The machine promises to tell you “How to love, Who to love, What to Avoid.” Well darn, if I had just had this machine 30 years earlier, I might well have avoided my first “practice” marriage and the subsequent dispersal of my assets! The premise here is that your fortune will be specifically tailored to your individual birthday. This is strictly nonsense, of course. All coins fall into a central activating mechanism that dispenses a card from a single, central cardholder. Regardless of which slot you deposit your coin, you receive the next card in the stack.



The cards are “spoof” fortunes so the joke became evident. Another feature I would like to point out is

the paint scheme on the case. More than likely, the game was originally manufactured with a natural oak wood stained case. Along the way, someone added this paint scheme known as “Showman’s paint.” This is quite typical of British games that have been on the arcade circuit and is actually quite desirable. The tendency among American collectors is to strip off this paint to return the machine to its natural wood state. If the Showman’s paint is presentable, I would strongly recommend that you not do this. The paint is an alteration to be sure but it is evolutionary evidence that provides valuable information as to the history of your game.

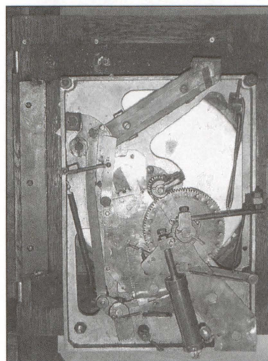
Card vendors come in many different styles. The most popular in terms of production numbers were the countertop-sized machines normally referred to under the generic phrase “wall games.” This refers to the practice the operators had of screwing these machines into the wall behind the game. They did this whenever possible for almost all countertop games, whether they were all wins, fortune tellers or whatever. This made theft more difficult and most importantly, eliminated the potential for upset of the game when the front door was opened. Most games had the heavy mechanism attached to the front door that made them extremely prone to tip over when the door was opened. It is easy to tell whether or not your game was once operated as a wall machine. Open the case; if there are one or more holes in the back wall of your case, your game was one!



A special area of British coin-op is the field of automatons, what the British call “working models.” A sub-set of the working model is the console size fortune teller. These are similar to our “Grandma’s Predictions” or “Princess Doralina.” My personal favorite (and unfortunately not in my collection) is a teller made in 1948 by Sidney Levin, the founder of Modern Enterprises, Ltd of Fulham,

England. Mr. Levin made a conventional looking teller called “Madame Sandra” and then hit a home run with his famous “Sidney Knows” (Photo). Take a close look at old Sidney’s face. Is he the type of fellow you want to trust your future to? You really have to want to know your fortune very badly to risk approaching the sinister looking Sidney. Both his head and eyes move before your card is dispensed. For small children, their future included seeing Sidney over and over again in their nightmares, no doubt!

I have saved the best fortune teller in my collection for last. It is entitled “What Will Your Future Bring.” (Photo). Besides being my most unique teller it is special to me for another reason: I purchased this machine from our Past COCA President, Paul Hindin. Thanks again, Paul! This teller incorporates the best features of British coin-op into one machine. It was produced by the British firm, “Samson Novelty Co.” of London before they became “Samson Novelty Co. Ltd” in 1927. The company was better known for importing from the American market but, as evidenced by this game, did produce some original machines. To start, the case is a stunning cathedral shape rather than the usual rectangular case you typically find. The truly unique feature of this fortune teller is the manner of play. This is the only machine I have seen that combines a fortune “wheel” with a possible cash payout. As you can see, the wheel is beautifully hand colored with 19 possible fortunes. These fortunes range from heartwarming: “Two Sons”, to heartbreaking: “Your Divorce“, to heartstopping: “Six Wives.” As if knowledge were not its own reward, the machine promises to pay out cold coinage for specific fortunes. The payout card spells out the incentive package. Taking a look at the interior mechanism, (Photo)



you will note an interesting fact: there is no coin tube for the payout. What is this, another bait and switch by our British friends? Absolutely not! The ingenious mystery part is what I call the coin retention/payout “sleeve.” This rectangular metal box is open at the top to receive all the coins dropping and tapering at the bottom to allow a specific number of coins to be held as necessary and then diverted to either the coin box or payout cup, depending upon the position commanded by the cam gear upon which the sleeve rides. Not surprisingly, the majority of the coins divert to the cash box with only one of the 19 positions returning the jackpot of six pennies. Since all is done with direct gearing, you would expect that as the fortune wheel spun around, the cam would open and close the sleeve, dropping the coin into the cashbox or payout cup, whichever came next. If the wheel were free spinning this would be the case. Instead, the interior mechanism advances one cog at a time which “spins” the exterior wheel about five fortunes. This is not particularly noticeable for there are actually two wheels on the exterior. The inner wheel containing the fortunes is covered by an outside wheel with the attached arrow and a cutout through which you view your fortune on the inner wheel. If this were not enough, the play is even more complex. After the coin is inserted and the central knob turned, the inner fortune wheel turns counterclockwise while the outside cover wheel turns clockwise. This ensures that the fortune you get is one you cannot see prior to playing the game. Is this not terrific or what? This bills itself as a fortune teller but with the payout feature, I think it is safe to conclude that this is a gambling device masquerading as an amusement game! Given the stout British restrictions against gambling devices, this is one clever dodger!

This brings us to the end of my delicious hoard of Fortune Kookies. I hope you enjoyed the cook’s tour. Next time, we’ll explore an unusual allwin that raises some interesting questions about restoration. And I still have to tell you about some fascinating foreign games specifically made for the British market. Until then, good hunting and more importantly, GOOD LUCK!

EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Next Issue - Summer 2004

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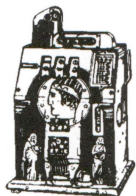
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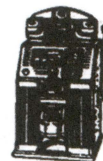
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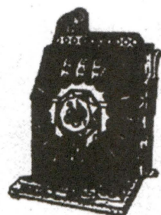
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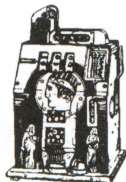
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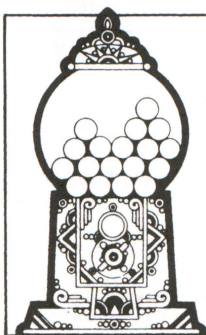


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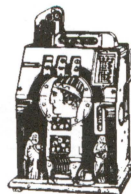
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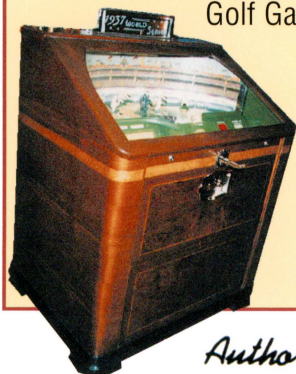
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